

the 53 relatives or former top aides to lawmakers on the powerful appropriations committees working at lobbying firms last year, 30 lobbied the legislator or the legislator's top aide for appropriations that the Member oversaw. Of those 30, 22 succeeded in their quest to insert specific earmarks in appropriations bills. That incredible rate of success—almost 75 percent—explains why lobbyists with personal ties to Members have been in high demand. Projects procured with the help of such lobbyists have included \$1.5 million for an underground facility in a cavern that would be used to protect financial information, \$2 million for an earmark not requested by the Department of Defense for a company that produces armor products that gave nearly \$11,000 to the sponsor of the earmark, \$1.28 million to widen a road near an upscale shopping center the earmark's sponsor helped to develop, and the creation of a fish marketing board that has received tens of millions in federal earmarks and whose initial chairman was related to the earmark sponsor. Ethics rules that do not prohibit this clear conflict of interest that borders on the corrupt enable such wasteful and inappropriate spending to occur at the cost of the American taxpayer.

#### ITBC

The InterTribal Bison Cooperative's (ITBC) bison restoration program has received \$8.2 million in federal earmarks since 2000. ITBC seeks to "restor[e] buffalo to Indian Country, to preserve [the Indian] historical, cultural, traditional and spiritual relationship for future generations." ITBC members also claim that ITBC enables Native Americans to eat more buffalo meat, which is healthier than other forms of meat. President Bush has repeatedly attempted to eliminate this program because it is not central to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) core missions or responsibilities. BIA has concerns with the management of the program, as of the roughly \$4 million in funding appropriated in 2006, less than \$1 million was directed to individual tribal projects. Specifically, out of the almost \$4 million funded by taxpayers, only \$859,180 was distributed to 15 tribes for bison projects. A total of \$3,127,782 was left for ITBC administration and technical assistance; meaning that for every one dollar allocated to the ITBC, 27 cents went to bison projects. Furthermore, despite an increase in funding of \$1,786,962 in for fiscal year 2006, only an additional \$30 was allocated to bison projects (previously spread among 21 tribes). These funds would be better spent on providing necessary Indian health services. More than \$8 million has been wasted on this program.

#### HUD—International Peace Garden

The Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations bill for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) included a provision directing \$450,000 to renovate facilities at the International Peace Garden in Dunseith, ND. The International Peace Garden is a 2,339 acre botanical garden on the U.S. and Canadian borders of North Dakota and Manitoba, created in 1932 as a symbol of friendship between the two nations. According to the garden's website, "Reflecting pools and dazzling colorful floral displays of over 150,000 flowers splash across the grounds of the Formal Garden's terraced walkways." While the International Peace Garden center may stand a symbol of the friendship between the United States and Canada, renovation is not essential, especially when it is estimated there are 700,000 homeless persons living in the U.S. According to HUD's website: "HUD's mission is to increase homeownership, support community development and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination." Nearly half a million dollars

for facility renovations to the International Peace Garden does not appear to advance this mission.

#### Cleveland-based Head Start provider accused of pocketing \$7.5 million for poor children it did not serve

Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. A recent state audit accused a Cleveland-based Head Start provider of pocketing \$7.5 million for poor children it did not serve. The audit, says the Ministerial Day Care Association was paid for 5,162 children in 1998 through 2000, but could only document serving 3,415 youngsters. It's the second major finding against the Ministerial Day Care Association, which was accused in a 2002 state audit of wrongly collecting \$3.8 million in taxpayer dollars. The State no longer funds the agency, but the group still collects Federal Head Start money as well as funding from the Council for Economic Opportunity in Cleveland, Ohio.

#### Duplication—Early Education

In 2000, the Government Accountability Office published a report titled, "Early Education and Care: Overlap Indicates Need to Assess Crosscutting Programs." The report identified duplicative programs providing education or care for children under the age of 5. The GAO report found 69 early education programs administered by 9 different agencies. GAO revisited this report in 2005, and found that the landscape of federal programs remained largely the same as in 2000. Five years after the original GAO report warned that a large number of programs creates the potential for inefficient service and difficulty accessing services, GAO found 69 early education programs exist, the same number as in 2000, but the programs are now administered by 10 different agencies. During the 5 years between GAO reports, 16 programs were removed from the list, and 16 were added back.

#### HHS—Four Federal Agencies Sponsor Conference at Walt Disney World

A three-day, expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World Resorts sound like a dream vacation—but it's not. It's research, according to four federal agencies who sponsored a conference in Orlando, Florida. The 2007 Academy Health Research Meeting was held at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin resort in Orlando, Florida. The posh resort boasts "an environment of elegance and opulence" featuring "the beauty and tranquility of waterways and tropical landscaping." Federal sponsors included the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the National Center for Health Statistics, and the Health Services Research and Development Service of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### USDA—Goose Poop Cleanup

For 3 consecutive years (Fiscal Years 2004 through 2006) Congress has appropriated money for the "Goose Control Program." The Goose Control Program uses humane methods to stop Canadian geese from ruining parks and fields in New York. Canadian geese in Long Island, NY pose a year-round problem, destroying golf courses, parks and fields at important public facilities. The Goose Control Program partners with "GeesePeace," an organization using environmentally-safe and non-lethal methods to reduce the number of geese and redirect them away from public places.

#### USDA—Imiloa Astronomy Center in Hawaii

Last year, Congress gave NASA \$1.5 million to fund the Imiloa Astronomy Center.

The Imiloa Astronomy Center is located on a nine-acre campus above the University of Hawaii-Hilo, and according to the website, features interactive exhibits, planetarium shows, group tours, a store and a cafe for visitors to explore the connections between Hawaiian cultural traditions and the science of astronomy. The center was formerly called the "Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center" and has received more than \$30 million in federal funding since FY 1999.

#### USDA—Subterranean Termite Research

The Department of Agriculture gives funding to scientists to develop and implement alternative methods to control and prevent termite damage to homes and other structures. The scientists devise and test control methods that are consistent with public health and environmental safety in warm weather states. Supporters argue that with increasing environmental concerns, especially ozone depletion due to fumigation control methods, as well as concerns for public health and safety, there is a continuing need to develop safe methods to control this devastating pest.

#### The National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 to promote the progress of science. With an annual budget of about \$6.06 billion, NSF is the major source of federal backing in many fields such as mathematics, computer science and the social sciences. The NSF website features the "Discoveries" made possible with NSF funding and support, including:

Helpful Robot Alters Family Life: Robotic vacuums are warming their way into homes and even taking on a personality for some families.

The Smell of Money: Research suggests an absence of metallic chemicals in the strong metallic odors that result from people handling coins and other metals.

Company Name Influences Stock Performance: Easy to pronounce names perform better in stock markets.

Monkey Business: The discovery of capuchin monkeys in the wild using stones as nutcrackers may tell us something about the monkeys' ingenuity, and more about ourselves.

The Implications of Making Care-Giving Robots Lifelike: Robots designed to help the elderly may be given the ability to interact in human-like ways but what are the implications of doing this?

#### Advanced Technology Program

The Advanced Technology Program (ATP) was created in 1988 to increase our country's global competitiveness by investing in businesses and ideas that could not attract private investment. Instead of promoting successful business initiatives, however, the program quickly became a vehicle for wasteful corporate welfare. For example, such struggling small businesses as GE, IBM, and Motorola have received hundreds of millions of dollars from this federal program. A Government Accountability Office study of the program even found it "unlikely that ATP can avoid funding research already being pursued by the private sector[.]" And according to the Program Assessment Rating Tool developed by the Office of Management and Budget, ATP does not address a specific need and is not even designed to make a unique contribution. Between 1990 and 2004, the program spent over \$2 billion on various investments of dubious value. Last year, instead of addressing the core problems within the federal program, Congress just chose to tinker around its edges and give it a new name.

#### HHS—Head Start

The Head Start program was established in 1965 to promote the school readiness of low-